

PERIBATODES SECUNDARIA
DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER IN KENT:
A SPECIES OF GEOMETRID MOTH NEW TO
GREAT BRITAIN

By BERNARD SKINNER*

A single male of this species was taken at m.v.l. during the latter half of July 1981 in an area of coniferous woodland supporting mature stands of Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.), Norway Spruce (*Picea abies* L.) and Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco). Subsequent visits to the same locality saw the species in good numbers, tentatively suggesting that it is most likely resident.

P. secundaria is at first glance not unlike a small well marked and ochreous example of *P. rhomboidaria* D. & S., however a closer examination will reveal several characters which will enable the two species to be positively separated:-

P. secundaria D. & S.

Wing size

30 - 35 mm

Male antenna

Pectinations extend almost to tip and those of the middle segments are considerably longer.

Body Markings

Abdominal band below thorax is greyish white and fairly conspicuous.

Forewing markings upperside

Whitish square spot halfway down between terminal and subterminal fascias often conspicuous in typical specimens. Postmedian line curves sharply outwards at the dorsum.

Hindwing markings underside

Postmedian line unangulated, a useful character when examining very dark or melanic specimens.

Forewing markings underside

Apical patch indistinct.

P. rhomboidaria D. & S.

35 - 42 mm .

Pectinations shorter and more uniform, tapering away towards the tip leaving the end 2-3mm. simple.

Abdominal band is light brown and rather indistinct.

Square spot usually indistinct or absent. Postmedian line slopes inwards at dorsum.

Postmedian line angulated.

Apical patch conspicuous and much darker than ground colour except for a small pale patch at apex.

Abroad *P. secundaria* is known from Central and Southern Europe including Denmark and Sweden. The adult flies from early July to late August. It overwinters as a larva and the foodplants listed by various authors are Pine, Spruce, Juniper and Thuya sps. Several local races have been described from France and Denmark and the melanic form has been named *ab. nigrata* Sterneck. Fertile eggs have been obtained from both typical and melanic females of the English race and it is hoped

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that notes on both its taxonomy and life history will be published at a later date. In the meantime and in a less scientific vein I would like to suggest The Feathered Beauty as a vernacular name, being consistent with the English name of allied genera as well as describing a diagnostic feature.

Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to D. S. Fletcher of the British Museum (Natural History) for confirming my determination of *P. secundaria* and to David Wilson who spared neither effort nor expense to produce in record time the photographic plate.

References

- Culot, J., 1917-1919. *Noctuelles et Géomètres d'Europe* 3: 99 pl. 55, fig 1126.
 Hoffmeyer, S., 1966. *De Danske Målere* 316, pl. 17, figs 9 & 10.
 Seitz, A., 1912. *The Macrolepidoptera of the World* 4: 369, pl. 20h.

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PHYTOMYZA SPOLIATA STROBL (DIPTERA: AGROMYZIDAE) NEW TO BRITAIN. — During the afternoon of 27th July 1980 I visited the Anglesey fen Cors Bodeilio (grid ref. SH 505 774) and among the flies swept from the field layer vegetation was a single male *Phytomyza* species unfamiliar to me. Using the key of Spencer (1972, Diptera: Agromyzidae. *R.E. S. Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects* X (5g.)) the specimen ran down to *P. silai* Hering, but differs from this species in lacking acrostichals, possessing two upper orbital bristles, having all knees yellow and notopleura grey. Turning to Spencer (1976, The Agromyzidae of Fennoscandia and Denmark. *Fauna ent. Scand.* 5) the specimen ran to *Phytomyza spoliata* Strobl, and comparison with the description of external characters and with the illustration of the lateral view of the aedeagus confirmed the identification. Spencer (1976, *op. cit.*) records this species from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Germany and the Mediterranean area, and gives the larval host plants as *Centaurea* spp. and possibly also *Cirsium heterophyllum* (L.) Hill. I thank Tim Blackstock (NCC Bangor) for arranging access permission to Cors Bodeilio. — Dr. I. F. G. McLEAN, Nature Conservancy Council, 19/20, Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

SOME INTERESTING MOTHS FROM CHATTENDEN WOOD, KENT.—On the night of 19th September 1980, Norman Heal and I visited this historic old locality. Amongst the 71 moths of 22 species that came to our lights was a specimen of the Tawny Pinion: *Lithophane semibrunnea* Haworth, and a single example of the Large Marbled Tortrix: *Nycteola revayana* Scopoli. On 3rd October, I returned alone and was rewarded with the sight of a very fresh Merveille du Jour: *Dichonia aprilina* L. at light.—D. DEY, 9, Monmouth Close, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 7BQ.